

TERRE HAUTE FIRST NATIONAL BANK
WABASH VALLEY PROFILE Series 1995

TRACKING TERRE HAUTE BASEBALL PLAYERS

(Picture might be baseball artwork or perhaps a picture of BRIAN DORSETT)

There are nine men from Terre Haute who have played in the World Series and several others who played in our town at some point in time who have participated in major league baseball's crown jewel event.

The local men include Mordecai "Three Fingers" Brown, who led the Chicago Cubs to world championships in this century's first decade. He was the first Hoosier named to the Baseball Hall Of Fame. Max Carey, an outfielder with the Pittsburgh Pirates, also was inducted into the Hall. He later managed the Brooklyn Dodgers. Art Nehf made a career as a left-handed pitcher for Boston, the New York Giants, Cincinnati, and the Chicago Cubs. Victor Aldridge was a right-hand pitcher with Pittsburgh. A right-hand hurler with Detroit was Paul "Dizzy" Trout.

Then there were James Harry Taylor, who pitched for Brooklyn and the Boston Red Sox. Lyle Tinning was a right-hand pitcher with the Cubs. Josh DeVore, a Seelyville native, roamed the outfield for the New York Giants and Boston Braves. Tommy John, with the "bionic" arm, pitched well into his 40's and hurled the Dodgers into a few World Series. He also pitched for the Yankees, Angels, and White Sox.

Other local men who played in the major leagues included Albert "Cod" Meyers - second baseman with Philadelphia and Washington in the late 1800's. Asa "Ace" Stewart played for Chicago in 1889. Billy Nelson was a right-hand pitcher for Pittsburgh in 1884. Jim Elliott was a left-hander for Philadelphia and Brooklyn. Emil Bildilli pitched for the St. Louis Browns. Bill Buteland hurled for the Red Sox. Bruce Connatser played first base for Cleveland. Of course, Brian Dorsett of Terre Haute has moved up to catch for the Cincinnati Reds.

(Might run this in conjunction with opening of baseball season, if we have one - in early April.)



Main Street

By RICHARD C. TUTTLE Star Assistant Editor

Bleachers

JAN 11 1982

Terre Haute was a good baseball town at one time, and boasted a team in the famous Three I League. Teams from Indiana, Illinois and Iowa. There were also some good players from this area, including Vic Aldridge, whose son practices law here; Mordecai "Three-Finger" Brown, who operated a service station at Seventh and Cherry streets after retirement; and Paul "Dizzy" Trout, who came from North Terre Haute area.

Paul Frisz probably has more baseball memorabilia than anyone else, other than the Hall of Fame, Cooperstown.

My recollections of my first baseball game was going to the ball field at Wabash avenue and Twenty-fifth street. The field was surrounded by a high board fence, the stands and even the small grandstand, were wood. But the games were never played better, even in the Astrodome.

When leaving the game, with Dad, A.O. Gillis offered us a ride home in his electric. . . my first and only ride in one of these fascinating soundless cars. Of course, I had to ride facing both ways, first facing forward, then moving across the aisle to sit facing backwards. And it was operated entirely by levers, speed, turning and braking.

When Memorial Stadium first opened, the League was still operating and attendance was great. However, interest in baseball was declining, and with rising costs, the League dropped teams and Terre Haute was without a team.

In the late 1930s, Vern McMillan of McMillan Sporting Goods (then), formed the Midwest Semipro Baseball tournament. About thirty or so business men sat on the board, and the plan evolved to have summer baseball with teams from industry, fire departments, business firms, playing a double round-robin tournament with a series at the close.

Teams from Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Missouri participated. Games were played on weekends and Wednesday night. The association paid mileage, a certain figure to winners, less to the loser. And the venture was profitable.

Teams were good. Such teams as the Indianapolis Firemen, Caterpillar Tractor, Delco and teams from firms in St. Louis, Ft. Wayne, Danville, and others participated. Sixteen teams were in the Midwest league each summer, most from prior summers but two or three new ones each summer.

The roof of the Stadium grandstand was in very poor condition, the city had no funds for replacement, so the Association had repairs done. The final series were almost sell-outs, usually 10,000 or so at each game. The players hustled, the fans appreciated their efforts, and everyone had a great time.

After the war, the League was revived, and Terre Haute fielded a team with the Philadelphia Phillies as parent club. Several excellent players went to the big leagues directly from Terre Haute, and stayed there. Others moved up through Class A leagues to the big time.

But once again, interest lagged and television came into the homes to get the fans attention. The Phillies gave up the Terre Haute franchise, and there has been no professional baseball here for many years. Industry and business no longer fielded baseball teams, largely due to the expense. Bowling and golf teams require far less cash sponsorship.

But Terre Hauteans still see professional baseball. . . in St. Louis, Cincinnati and Chicago. Baseball arguments are loud and long as Cub, Cardinal and Reds fans spiel forth in support of their favorite teams and players. It's still the national pastime.

When the Cubs came to town

'Three-finger' Brown's outing thrilled home folks

Is OCT 21, 1990

The biggest game of baseball ever played in western Indiana happened 82 years ago, on Oct. 24, 1908, right here in Terre Haute.

Wild-eyed enthusiasm was rampant in town when the Chicago Cubs and the Detroit Tigers arrived.

One of the largest crowds in the young history of baseball was in attendance at the game to see Mordecai "Three-Finger" Brown, formerly from Terre Haute, pitch six innings.

He received a great welcome. Before the game, Mayor James Lyons presented Brown with a chest of silver, the gift of his many friends. Needless to say, the Cubs upheld their supremacy by handing the Tigers a 7-1 drubbing, and the fans were delighted.

Mordecai Peter Centennial Brown was born near Terre Haute in Nyesville, northeast of Rockville, on Oct. 19, 1876. He had as many names as fingers on his pitching hand. As a youngster, he suffered an accident which cost him the loss of half his index finger. He developed so many unorthodox pitches, however, he was acclaimed as one of baseball's foremost pitchers.

"Three-Finger" first appeared in the Nall League as a St. Louis Cardinal in 1903. After his rather mediocre beginning, St. Louis decided Mordecai's handicap was too much to overcome, and dealt him to the Cubs.

Under the guidance of Frank Selee, Brown was soon rivaling the Giant's immortal Christy Mathewson as the league's top-drawer hurler. In the next nine seasons with Chicago, he enabled

Historically speaking



Clark retired as The Tribune-Star women's editor in 1980. She has written a local history column for 30 years. She is Vigo County Historian.

By Dorothy J. Clark
Special to The Tribune-Star

the northsiders to win four pennants.

From 1906 to 1911, Mordecai turned in more than 20 victories a season, reaching his high-water mark of 29 in 1908, and an impressive total of 148 victories in six seasons.

During the hectic 1908 season, climaxed by an unprecedented playoff, Brown strung together four consecutive shutouts from June 13 through July 4, the first pitcher in his league to establish such a mark.

Mordecai moved on to Cincinnati in 1913 before jumping to the Federal League in 1914 as St. Louis manager. After one more season with the Feds, Brown returned to his beloved Cubs for his 14th and last big-league season.

Of all the 480 games Brown appeared in, it is doubtful if he ever forgot the historic playoff battle with the Giants at New York's Polo Grounds on Oct. 8, 1908. Relieving Jack Pfeister in the first inning, Mordecai went on to beat Matty 4-2, nothing unusual since Brown

was always Matty's chief nemesis when these two giants of the mound hooked up.

Charles Nehf, who knew baseball from its start, remembered 13 players from Terre Haute who went to the majors. They were Cod Myers, Art Nehf, Cecil Ferguson, Brown, Billy Nelson, Ace Stewart, Victor Aldridge and Dizzy Trout.

Volunteer fire companies in Terre Haute were responsible for the first organized baseball here. The most outstanding of these conflicts between rival teams occurred Aug. 13, 1867, when the Mohawks lost to the Eureka 61-83.

Lovers of no-hit, no-run games need an explanation. The ball was pitched underhand, and the batter took his time until he saw some prospect of a hit. Only actual strikes were counted, and only the umpire kept track of strikes or balls. The batter was entitled to four attempts to hit the ball, and if he missed the fourth attempt he was out.

The rules changed a little later allowing the out only if the catcher caught the ball on the fourth strike. The catcher stood well back from the plate and caught the ball on the bounce. Only after three strikes did he move up from the plate.

If he caught the ball missed by the batter, the batter was out. If he did not catch the ball, he usually made first base before the catcher could get the ball and deliver it to the first baseman. If there was no backstop, only one base was permitted because the ball might be lost and there would be time to circle the bases.

Those early games were played on North Sixth Street in an open field between Sycamore Street and the Vandalia Railroad. Teams also played on vacant lots on the northside of Wabash west of Seventh Street.

Not until the 1890s was a baseball park complete with grandstand built near 17th and Wabash. Before this time, admission was never charged, not even the passing of the hat among the spectators.

Sunday games were played on an open field east of Ninth Street, beginning a half block north of Locust Street, and bounded on the east by the I. & St. L., later the Big Four Railroad, and on the north by Fourth Avenue. At times there would be three games going on at the same time.

Among the teams which played there were the Awkwards and the Blues, the Fast and the Slows. These teams took over when the volunteer firemen quit playing and the paid fire departments came into being. Nehf managed the Slows, and Albert Froeb was the manager or captain of the Fast. The Slows won four years out of four years.

Terre Haute's sporting circles brought about some competition with other cities and the organization of league teams. Outlasting all others was the famous Three-I League of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, which finally disbanded July 4, 1956.

Terre Haute furnished at least one professional umpire, Benny Van Borssum, who became nationally known.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Community Affairs File

Vine Line's TEAM of the CENTURY

21

STARTING PITCHER

Mordecai BROWN

BORN

10/19/1876 in Nyesville, Ind.

DIED

2/14/1948 in Terre Haute, Ind.

CUBS YEARS

1904-12, 1916

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- recorded six consecutive 20-win seasons from 1906-11
- holds the Cubs' 20th century career records for winning percentage (.686), complete games (206), shutouts (48) and ERA (1.80)
- holds the Cubs' 20th century single-season records for wins (29 in 1908), shutouts (nine in 1906 and 1908) and ERA (1.04 in 1906)
- recorded five wins, three shutouts and a 2.81 ERA while participating in four World Series
- is the only Cubs pitcher with 100 more franchise wins than losses
- elected to the Hall of Fame in 1949

TOP CUBS PITCHERS

By victories

1. Charlie Root	201
2. MORDECAI BROWN	188
3. Bill Hutchison	181
4. Larry Corcoran	175
5. Fergie Jenkins	167

By ERA*

1. MORDECAI BROWN	1.80
2. Jack Pfeister	1.85
3. Orval Overall	1.91
4. Ed Reulbach	2.24
5. Larry Corcoran	2.26

*minimum 1,000 innings

By Innings Pitched

1. Charlie Root	3,137.1
2. Bill Hutchison	3,026.0
3. Fergie Jenkins	2,673.2
4. Larry Corcoran	2,338.1
5. MORDECAI BROWN	2,329.0

Vine Line's Team of the Century

MGR: Frank Chance

SP: Mordecai Brown

RP:

C:

LF:

CF:

RF:

3B:

2B:

1B:

SS:

Next month:
RELIEF PITCHER

Editor's Note: In the second of 11 installments, Vine Line's "Team of the Century" series this month highlights Mordecai Brown as the Cubs' top starting pitcher of the 1900s.

By Ed Hartig
Free-Lance Writer

Misfortune as a child turned into opportunity as an adult for Mordecai Brown, one of the best pitchers in big-league history.

With 239 career victories, 55 shutouts and baseball's third-best lifetime ERA (2.06), Brown belongs among the game's elite. As a Cub, his numbers compare favorably with the franchise's best pitchers in virtually every major category, making him Vine Line's choice over such popular names as Charlie Root, Fergie Jenkins, Hippo Vaughn and Grover Cleveland Alexander as the Cubs' top starting pitcher of the century.

Brown was a colorful player who might never have risen above the semipro level if it had not been for two unfortunate injuries he sustained as a youth in southern Indiana, mishaps that earned him the unforgettable nickname "Three Finger."

While playing on his uncle's farm as a 7-year-old, Brown got his right hand caught in a corn shredder. Doctors were forced to amputate his index finger above the second knuckle, and his thumb and pinkie both were impaired permanently. A few weeks later, he broke two fingers on the same hand while chasing a hog.

Brown, however, didn't let his misfortune temper his love for baseball. By day, he worked in the coal mines; by night and on weekends, he played third base for the company team. One day during the summer of 1898, an injury to the team's pitcher forced Brown to the mound as an emergency replacement. It was then that he discovered that his injured hand was a baseball blessing in disguise.

After two seasons of pitching minor-league ball, Brown had his contract purchased by the Cardinals in 1903. A year later, he was traded to the Cubs. St. Louis, it seems, feared that his mutilated hand would prevent him from becoming a star pitcher. Brown proved them wrong.

With the Cubs, he became the ace of the most dominant pitching staff in the dead-ball era if not in the entire history of baseball. After winning 15 and 18 games in his first two years in Chicago, he reeled off six consecutive 20-win seasons from 1906-11. During that span, he had a 1.63 ERA and averaged almost 25 wins, 26 complete games and 290 innings pitched per season. Not surprising, the Cubs won four pennants and two World Series during those years.

In 1906, Brown won 26 games and posted the third lowest single-season ERA in baseball history (1.04) as the Cubs won the pennant by 20 games. The Cubs, however, lost the World Series to the underdog White Sox in six games. "Three Finger" was 1-2 in the Series, with his only win being a Game 4 shutout. The Cubs overcame their disappointing World Series loss by



"That old paw served me pretty well in its time. It gave me a firmer grip on the ball, so I could spin it over the hump. It gave me a greater dip."

—Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown

winning the 1907 pennant by 17 games and sweeping the Tigers in the World Series (with one tie). Brown tossed a shutout in the clincher.

Led by Brown's 29 wins and 1.47 ERA, the Cubs added another pennant and World Series title in 1908. Unlike the two previous seasons, however, the pennant wasn't decided until the final day of the season.

With the Cubs and Giants tied atop the NL at 98-55, the two clubs met Oct. 8 in New York to determine the league champions. Nearly 250,000 fans converged on the Polo Grounds, hoping to get one of the 35,000 tickets to "the most important game in National League history." By game time, there were thousands of fans lined on the field in front of the bleachers, hurling insults and beer bottles at the Cubs.

Despite hearing the pleadings of Brown—who was on just two days of rest—Cubs manager Frank Chance elected to start Jack Pfeister, who ran into trouble in the first inning. With one run in, two runners on base and two men out, Chance summoned Brown from the bullpen. "Our warm-up pen was out in right-centerfield," Brown said, "so I had to push and shove my way through the crowd on the outfield grass. 'Get the hell out of my way,' I bawled at 'em as I plowed through."

Finally, with help from a police escort, Brown took the mound. Pitching in an atmosphere he later called as "near a lunatic asylum as I ever saw," he shut down the rally and held New York to only one run the rest of the way; the Cubs won 4-2 to take the pennant.

"I was about as good that day as I ever was in my life," Brown said proudly.

The Cubs quickly dispatched Detroit in five games to win their second World Series. Brown was 2-0, allowing only one unearned run and six hits in 11 innings. He also earned the respect of Tigers great Ty Cobb, who called Brown's curveball "the most devastating pitch I ever faced."

Over the next three seasons, "Three Finger" won 27, 25 and 21 games. Injured for much of the 1912 season, he slumped to 5-6 and was traded to Cincinnati. He pitched in the Federal League in 1914 and '15 before rejoining the Cubs in 1916 and going 2-3 in his last major-league season.

Despite the gnarled hand, Brown left behind a legacy as one of the top control pitchers in the game. Four of his single-season ERA totals rank among the Top 40 all-time, and six times he finished among league leaders for fewest walks per game.

Catcher Jimmy Archer, Brown's batterymate for five seasons, may have summed up Brown's control best:

"One time I was warming up Brown, and Bill Klem, the umpire, pushed me aside. He put a piece of paper the size of a half dollar on the ground. 'That's the only target that fellow needs to pitch to,' Klem said. And he was right."

Brown passed away on Valentine's Day in 1948, a year before he was elected to the Hall of Fame.

Chicago Cubs Vine Line March 1999

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Baseball (T.H.)

SEASONS

S P R I N G • 1 9 9 8

A Publication of Roselawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park



BROWN, MORDECAI PETER CENTENNIAL
"THREE FINGER"

Local Hero Rests at Roselawn

The first Hoosier inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, Mordecai Peter Centennial Brown is laid to rest in Roselawn Cemetery. Brown was dubbed "Three Fingers" because his hand was mangled in a corn-grinding machine when he was seven years old. The injury, however, never crippled his spirit or his ability.

As a young man growing up in Nyesville, Brown worked as a "checker" for the mineworkers' union. He kept the records of miners' hours and how much coal they had dug so the men could verify the mining company's records come payday. He became popular among the coal workers, who taught the boy everything they knew about baseball, the emerging national pastime. (The National League was formed in the year of Brown's birth, 1876.)

With his sights set on becoming a professional baseball player, Brown soon won a position on Coxville's town team as a catcher and third baseman, later becoming a pitcher. In 1898, after a 9-3 victory over Brazil, the losing team recruited him to their side by offering him a paid position. In 1901, when Terre Haute organized a Three I League team

Brown was given a tryout for a pitching position. He just missed the cut, but the hue and cry from local fans was so great that their favorite son was put on the team. "Miner" Brown was signed for \$40 a month.

Brown played for Omaha and for St. Louis before being called up to the Chicago Cubs. He played for the Cubs during their back-to-back World Series Championship seasons in 1907 and 1908. Ty Cobb once said Brown's curveball was "the most devastating pitch I ever faced."

"All I knew is I had all the fingers I needed," Brown once said. When he retired from baseball in 1916, Brown moved to Terre Haute and opened a Texaco station at Seventh and Walnut streets.

While Brown's grave in Roselawn Cemetery says nothing of his accomplishments, his great-nephew Fred Massey had a monument erected in a cornfield north of the Nyesville-Judson Road, where Brown's boyhood home once stood.



Photo courtesy of Vigo County Historical Society

45	StarwHil	84	27.01	+38
21	StiDyna	11.79	-41	
69	SteinMn	5.45	+12	
47	Stricycle s	37.69	+92	
72	SturmR	8.42	+07	
39	SunMicro	3.37	+01	
39	Sunair	3.23	-01	
78	SunrAssist	28.49	+24	
82	SunTrst	1.80	57.40	+15
16	Supvalu	57	16.27	-01
38	SykesEn	4.08	-01	
53	Symantec	42.85	-34	
32	Synovus	59	19.30	
02	Sysco	44	27.70	-10
10	SystCpt	7.42	+12	
21	TCW	32	4.94	-04
34	TECO	78	10.71	-09
63	TJX s	14	18.82	-10
05	TXU Corp	50	18.37	+17
99	Target	24	33.23	+22
15	TelMexL	1.09	30.98	-09
30	Tellabs	5.85	-15	
40	TempleIn	1.38	44.90	+1.09
22	TmpGib	48	7.93	+05
45	TncoAut	3.43	+18	
67	TexInst	09	19.69	-22
35	Texttron	1.30	29.83	-13
14	Thornbg	2.40	22.90	+77
75	3Com	5.44	+03	
1	3M CO	2.64	127.80	-195
29	ToyRU	9.73	-26	
55	TrackData	45	-01	
30	TrCd a g	1.08	15.30	+15
60	Tredgar	16	12.48	-44
24	TrinityIn	24	15.92	+10
58	Tycolint	05	14.70	+34
78	UGI s	1.14	31.05	+35
40	vjUSG	5.11	+01	
20	UniSrcEn	60	17.78	-25
29	UnionPac	92	58.72	-88
11	UPlant r s	1.33	28.49	+21
38	UPint plE	2.00	51.14	
30	Unisys	10.64	+24	
40	UtdAuto	15.20	-25	
12	UPS B	84	60.50	+44
76	UtdRentl	10.75	+35	
20	US Bancrp	82	22.86	+34
14	US Enr	4.19	+34	
25	USSSteel	20	13.73	+48
00	UtdTech	1.08	61.24	-28
00	Unocal	80	27.30	-26
10	ValueCity	2.08	-12	
62	Vectren	1.10	22.49	-03
75	Veritas	20.28	+45	
68	VerizonCm	1.54	36.03	+2.04
77	Viacom	44.14	+74	
45	ViacomB	44.09	+85	
37	ViadCp	36	21.19	+35
55	Vishay	11.50	+10	
80	Vitesse	2.71	+01	
68	Vodafone	29	20.40	+16
39	Wabash	8.30	+65	
55	Wachovia	1.16	38.18	+75
30	WalMart	36	55.98	-01
36	Walgrn	15	30.76	-43
39	WallCS	66	25.25	-30
40	WAMutl	1.20	39.04	+57
15	WRT	1.41	28.07	-10
25	WsteMnc	01	21.20	-38
13	WatsnPh	29.54	+88	
56	WeinRlt	2.34	41.80	-05
68	WeisMk	1.08	31.50	-02
29	Weilmn	36	11.12	-18
36	WellpHlt	73.66	+55	
98	WellisFrgo	1.20	48.17	+34
37	Wendys	24	26.22	-21
30	WestarEn	76	13.77	+32
23	WWirelss	5.45	+38	
35	Weyerh	1.60	52.89	+89
11	Whnpl	1.36	53.92	-1.13
13	WhiteElec	8.15	+11	
73	WholeFd	58.75	-73	
68	WmsCos	04	6.56	-30
38	WirelessT	08	2.42	+04
25	WiscEn	80	25.39	+14
87	WolWW	22	18.00	+45
47	WrdGate n	27	-02	
98	Wrigley	86	56.60	-75
54	Wyeth	92	40.05	+4.15
03	Wynn n	16.92	+1.40	
19	XOMA	5.32	+33	
76	XcalEngy	19	13.24	+18
10	XcalE plA	3.60	50.50	-50
20	Xerox	9.95	+79	
23	Xicor	5.76	+04	
65	Xilinx	27.34	+43	
30	Xybrnaut	38		
15	Yahoo	25.60	-06	
60	YumBrds s	23.40	-70	
55	Zimmer	46.50	+47	
81	Zotek	2.61	-08	
07	ZweigTI	58	5.70	+03

were scattered signs of better days bank could cut interest rates at cent.

WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

A series of tributes to hometown heroes who have made a difference.

Baseball (WV)

Asa "Ace" Stewart

Though he played only one year in the major leagues, Asa "Ace" Stewart may have been the finest baseball player produced in Terre Haute during the 19th century. One of four sons of John and Emily Stewart, Asa was born in Terre Haute on Feb. 14, 1869. As a teenager, he quit school while residing at 1504 Cruft Ave. to work at the Terre Haute Nail Works and played semi-pro baseball on Sundays. Stewart made his pro debut at age 20 with the Terre Haute Hottentots of the Illinois-Indiana League, heralded for many years as the finest team assembled in the city. It was so dominating that the other teams folded, ending the league season prematurely. Sporting a 24-4 record, Terre Haute was seven games ahead of second-place Danville, Ill. The Terre Haute team continued to play exhibition games against other pro teams, including some from the major leagues. It fared well, twice defeating future Hall of Fame pitcher Amos Rusie who played for Indianapolis of the National League. Altogether, the 1889 team had a 63-13 record.



Although two other Terre Haute products, Billy Nelson and Albert "Cod" Myers, spent more years in the majors than Stewart, his professional career spanned 21 seasons. Before becoming the star second baseman for Adrian "Cap" Anson's Chicago Colts of the National League in 1895, he compiled impressive credentials playing for Anderson in the Indiana State League (1890); Oconto and Fond du Lac in the Wisconsin State League (1891); Oshkosh of the Michigan-Wisconsin League (1892); Easton of the Pennsylvania State League (1893); and Sioux City of the Western League (1894). An excellent infielder with a strong arm, in 1894 Ace hit .317 with 22 home runs, 19 triples, 21 doubles and 53 stolen bases. His immediate popularity with Chicago fans inspired Anson's resentment. In July, when Stewart's batting average began to fall, Anson benched him. In 97 games that season, Stewart hit .241 with eight home runs and finished the season at Rockford of the Western Association, hitting .397. Between 1896 and 1900, Stewart was captain of the Indianapolis Hoosiers—the 1897 and 1899 Western League champions—and the Kansas City Blues. The Western League was renamed the American League in 1900. As team captain for Omaha of the new Western League from 1901 to 1903, Stewart lured Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown—pitching star of Terre Haute's 1901 Three-I League championship team—to join him in 1902. After playing for New Orleans of the Southern League in 1904, Ace returned to play for Terre Haute's Central League team for nearly two years, leaving midway in the 1905 season to become playing manager at Jackson (Miss.). For the next four seasons he managed Jackson, Meridian and Columbus of the Cotton States League, retiring at age 40 in 1909 due to failing health. Upon returning to Terre Haute, he was a bartender and a city policeman. He also worked at Highland Iron and Steel.

On April 12, 1912, Ace died at age 43 at 517 S. 13 1/2 St., the home of his sister Lulu, "from rheumatism and a complication of diseases." He was interred with his parents at Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Terre Haute Tribune Star Thursday April 24, 2003 pA9

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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
IN TERRE HAUTE

As you sit back during these summer months and root your favorite baseball team on with your peanuts, crackerjacks, and cool beverage; reminisce a moment. Were you aware Terre Haute used to be the home of professional baseball?

In 1901 our town was known for two things - its coal and the Terre Haute Huts. With minor league baseball flourishing at the turn of the century - Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa formed the Three-I League. This league was categorized as Class B. The pride and joy of the Wabash Valley, the Huts produced such baseball greats as Max Carey, Paul "Dizzy" Trout, and the unforgettable "Three-Finger" Mordecai Brown.

The first local ballclub played its games on a field at 19th and Wabash Avenue. Later the diamond would be moved to 27th and Wabash. Attendance totaled nearly 35,000 that first season in 1901. In its initial year at bat, the new team steamrolled its way to the league title and repeated the feat several more times in future years.

Mordecai Brown, nicknamed "Brownie", would go on to compile a 239-130 win-loss lifetime pitching record as he razzle-dazzled the fans. Brownie's handicap only broadened his appeal. He lost two fingers at age 7 in a corn picker on his uncle's farm in Rosedale. He developed a particularly devilish curve ball despite his crippled hand and started his journey to the Hall Of Fame, hurling for the Chicago Cubs. Mordecai Brown pioneered the way to the big leagues for many well-known local luminaries.

Josh DeVore of Seelyville was a speedy runner and a base stealer. Art Nehf, the great Giants relief pitcher, played at Wiley and at Rose Poly. Cecil "Doc" Ferguson eventually gave up baseball for a bone-setting practice in Florida. Vic Aldridge's claim to fame is the two World Series games he pitched and won in 1925. Paul "Dizzy" Trout was a 20-game winner for the Detroit Tigers in 1943 and later broadcast the balls and strikes. Harry Taylor of Seelyville pitched three no-hitters for the

Jeff Adams

Dodgers. In 1942 Bill Butland pitched 7 consecutive games for the Red Sox and triumphed over every opponent. One of the truly all-time greats - Max Carey - stole 51 bases out of 53 attempts in 1922.

In 1925 the city developed an enviable ballpark at what is now Memorial Stadium. This \$400,000 facility, called the finest minor league ballpark in the country, was actually opened for the Wiley-Garfield football game Thanksgiving Day 1924, but the first baseball game and dedication of the structure was May 5, 1925 - opening day of the Three-I League season.

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, the commissioner of baseball, was among the crowd of 8,000 who witnessed the then-named Tots defeat the Peoria Tractors 5-4 in 11 innings. "Big Jim" Elliott was the hurler for Terre Haute that day. Judge Landis praised the stadium, saying "when I stepped into the bowl I was held speechless. I never dreamed that a minor league club could have such a home as this. It is all too wonderful for words and the good people of Terre Haute should be deeply appreciative of it." Local historian Richard Tuttle remembers "the field was surrounded by a high board fence, the stands and even the small grandstand were wood. And the games were never played better - even in the Astrodome."

A highlight came in 1927 when one of the young pitchers for the Tots was Wally Marks. He opposed Carl Hubble of the New York Giants' Decatur farm team. Hubble would go on to become one of major league baseball's greatest southpaw hurlers. The two squads dueled each other for 17 innings with Hubble and Marks each going the distance as the local nine finally prevailed 3-2. Marks would later go on to coach at Indiana State and serve as Dean of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department. Ironically, a member of the Decatur team was shortstop Paul Wolf, who later would coach baseball at Indiana State.

The first baseball game ever broadcast by a radio station from Memorial Stadium was April 26, 1928. The late Carl C. Jones called the play-by-play over station KGFO, which had its studios in the Odd Fellows building on Eighth Street. The first night game in the stadium was contested June 8, 1931.

The Terre Haute Tots won the pennant in 1928 under manager Pat Haley

and in 1932 under skipper Frank Kohlbecker. In 1930 Joe Vosmik hit a sizzling .397 to pace the Tots and Milt Galatzer was nearly as hot in 1931 with a .375 hitting clip.

The Terre Haute Tots drew large crowds in the early years, but by 1930 the nation was in the midst of a depression and the season's attendance fell off to just 16,813 paid admissions. The entire league quit operations midway through the 1933 season, but Terre Haute was back in the league in 1935. There was no team in 1936, but the Tots tried it again in 1937, finally folding for keeps July 4. Terre Haute was without professional baseball until after World War II, but large crowds were attracted to the stadium in the late 1930s and in 1940 by the Indiana Semi-Pro Baseball Tournament.

In 1946 Three-I League baseball returned to Terre Haute in the form of the Phillies - a farm club of the Philadelphia Phillies franchise. Ray Brubaker was named as the first manager of the team. He died on a road trip in the club's dugout midway through that season. Over the next nine seasons Jack Sanford, "Stubby" Overmire, "Skeeter" Newsome, Herb Kittle, and Danny Carnavale would manage the club. Kittle later went on to serve as pitching coach for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Many players came and went over the decade the Phillies were in town. Some were fortunate enough to make it in the big leagues while most of them enjoyed their years in the minors and went on to other careers. Neil Johnston, member of the 1950 team, starred for the Philadelphia Warriors in the NBA. Ernie Woods, also a member of the 1950 squad, became known as one of the city's most avid and talented left-handed golfers.

Post-war dollars were plentiful and attendance soared to a record 133,648 admissions in the 1947 season. One of the largest minor league baseball crowds in Terre Haute history turned out one evening that summer for "Chevy Night". 10,600 fans poured through the turnstiles to watch their local heroes. The game and crowd were featured in a national story in the Sporting News that September.

The Terre Haute Phillies won crowns in 1951 and 1953 with Lamar "Skeeter" Newsome and Herb Kittle piloting the squads respectively. Maybe the banner season of them all in local baseball annals, however,

was 1950 when, under player-manager Danny Carnavale, Terre Haute compiled a 77-46 record to win the Three-I League. The team captured the circuit with a very successful two-month run in July and August. Jim Watson hit .325 and connected for 137 hits in batting in 87 runs. Carnavale hit .319 and led the league in RBIs with 86. Jack Schmitt was the leading pitcher, going 20-5 with 198 strikeouts. The Phillies beat out Danville for the pennant.

Television became popular along with many other activities and crowds began dwindling steadily until the 1954 Phillies drew only 37,104 paid admissions. They finally bowed out of the picture, but the Detroit Tigers assumed control of the franchise in 1955 and the team was called the Terre Haute Huts again. Paul Frisz was the president and general manager of the club while Charlie Metro was named the team's manager. Attendance crawled back up to 50,334 in 1955 but it was far from sufficient as the Huts folded July 4, 1956 despite being in first place.

Nearly two generations have come and gone since then, but Terre Haute's baseball memories shine brightly like the stars who made them. Recollections from old-timers can be conjured up at the drop of a ball and bat. It still is and will always be our community's national pastime.

Minor league baseball died here 30 years ago

Local team folded because of financial difficulties

By Carl Jones

Tribune-Star Sports Reporter

It was 30 years ago this month — July 3, 1956, to be exact — that minor league baseball died in Terre Haute.

The Terre Haute Huts, a Three-I League farm club of the Detroit Tigers, folded at the close of the first half of the 1956 season because of financial troubles.

There were a variety of reasons, not one of which had anything to do with the caliber of the ball club. The Huts had been in first place much of the early part of that '56 season and were in second place with a 39-26 record when they folded.

Fans had simply stopped coming to the games in Memorial Stadium.

The true villain probably was television. By 1956 most Terre Haute homes had a television set, and "the thing to do" was to sit in front of the screen and watch the likes of Milton Berle, Red Skelton, and Ed Sullivan.

Only five years before, the thing to do was to watch the Terre Haute Phillies play baseball. But Philadelphia pulled its franchise

out of here after the 1954 season, and the Tigers franchise lasted less than two years.

It ended a post-World War II 10-year era of baseball in Terre Haute that had produced three pennants and two playoff championship flags to fly in Memorial Stadium.

During the pennant-winning season of 1950 (before television had made it to Terre Haute) it was not unusual for the Phillies of Manager Danny Carnevale to lure crowds of 3,000 or 3,500 fans.

But Terre Haute's legacy of professional baseball goes back much farther than 1950. Terre Haute was one of the charter members of the Three-I League — which got its name from the fact it was comprised of teams from Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa — in 1901.

The record book shows that Terre Haute team of 1901 won the pennant with a record of 72 victories and 39 defeats. Terre Haute was also in the Three-I League in 1902, along with Rockford, Cedar Rapids, Rock Island, Davenport, Evansville, Decatur, and Bloomington, Ill.

In 1903 Terre Haute switched its team to the Central League and did not move back to the Three-I until 1919, just after the close of World War I. The manager of that 1919 team was Mordecai "Three-Fingered" Brown, who had already chalked up enough pitching victories in the major leagues to earn himself a berth in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The games in those days were played in what fans called "the old ball park," which was located on East Wabash near the spot where Wendy's hamburger establishment now holds forth.

Terre Haute won a pennant in 1922 under Manager Bob Coleman, who was to manage the major league Boston Braves in 1944 and '45 before spending most of his career managing Terre Haute's No. 1 rival in the Three-I League, the Evansville Braves.

Present-day fans should not be misled by the fact the Three-I League was a "Class B" league. In those days the lowest minor leagues were Class D, and a Class B League was for players moving up the ladder toward the majors.

Among the notable Three-I performers were such future major leaguers batting stars as Lou Boudreau, Joe Vosmik,

Jimmy "Rip" Collins, Chet Laabs, Lou Novikoff, Hal Trosky, Sid Gordon and Cal Abrams.

Vosmik, playing for the Terre Haute Tots, led the Three-I League in batting with a .397 average in 1930, the all-time league record. Needless to say he

was soon in the major leagues and starred for Cleveland and Boston.

Some of the league's top pitchers were Warren Spahn, Wes Ferrell, Jim Elliott, Whitlow Wyatt, Kirby Higbe, Emil Bildilli (a Vigo County native), Charlie Root and Carl Erskine.

During the era of the Terre Haute Phillies — 1946-1954 — the league produced such major league shortstops as Luis Aparicio, Harvey Kuenn, Johnny Logan, Tony Kubek, Woody Held, Felix Mantilla, and Terre Haute's Willie "Puddinhead" Jones.

The Philadelphia Phillies were to receive such former Terre Haute players as Jones, Stan Lopata, Putsy Caballero, Bob Miller, and Niles Jordan.

Terre Haute managers from 1946-1956 included Ray Brubaker, Jack Sanford, Pat Colgan, Dale Jones, Lee Riley (father of present Los Angeles Lakers Coach Pat Riley), Danny Carnevale, Lamar "Skeeter" Newsome, Hub Kittle, "Stubby" Overmire, Bill Norman and Charlie Metro. Carnevale and Metro are still active as major league scouts.

Popular hangouts for the managers and players after World War II included the Terre Haute

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Photo courtesy Larry Williams

Three-I champs: Terre Haute's Phillies, pictured above, won the league championship in 1952

MR. BASEBALL HISTORY

By RICK JOHNSON

PAUL C. Frisz of Terre Haute has been involved in major league baseball since he was 15 and today, even at 67, he has no idea of retiring.

Frisz's name is in the baseball record books, not as a player or manager, but as an historian of the game and biographer of its players. To his many friends he's admirably known as the commissioner and chief umpire of the Hot Stove League.

In 1971 ceremonies at the Baseball Hall of Fame Frisz was introduced to the gathering as "the owner of the best and largest baseball collection privately owned in the whole country." His memorabilia, gathered since he was a youngster, reflects his warm, human approach to the game and its players.

But Frisz demands accuracy. He got no thanks for his effort, but he once documented more than 40 errors in a baseball record book and rifled the list off to the publisher. He quickly notifies any baseball writer or broadcaster of errors and he expects them to be corrected at

Once Frisz went to his records of the late Dwight D. Eisenhower. Ike, just returned from the crusade in Europe, remarked during an interview at a 1945 baseball game that he once played in the Class D, Kansas State League under the name of Wilson. But when he was pressed for details Ike said, "That is my life secret."

A few days later the Sporting News reported the season Ike played professional baseball was 1911 with the Junction City, (Kan.) club of the Class D, Kansas State League and that Ike hit .355 in 10 games and fielded flawlessly.

Frisz, interested, searched his records. In a 1912 issue of the Official Spalding Baseball Guide, Frisz located a picture of the Junction City team which included a player identified as D. Wilson. Frisz found the team was in the Central Kansas League, not the Kansas State League, and Ike played in 9 games, not 10.

NO ONE could get General Eisenhower to say more about the incident. After Ike retired from the presidency to Gettysburg, Frisz decided once more to try to settle the



matter. He wrote Ike a letter and enclosed a copy of the old team photograph.

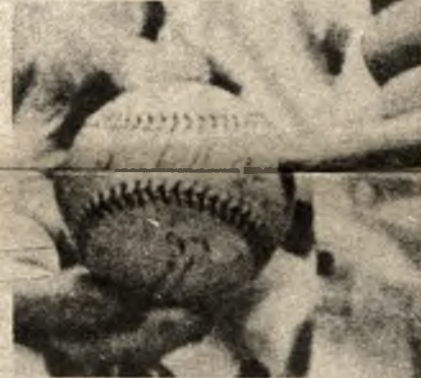
Frisz received a reply from one of Eisenhower's aides which said:

letter with General Eisenhower and show him the photograph you enclosed. He asked me to advise you that he was never close to Junction City at the time and he does not know a thing about the rumor which you outlined."

With a grin Frisz speculates: "I know what happened; 1911 was about the era Jim Thorpe lost all of his medals for having played professional baseball. Ike was paid \$50 a month for playing baseball in 1911 and soon after the season was over he entered West Point. Perhaps he had the appointment before baseball season. But he was determined not to spoil his amateur status. He played under the name of Wilson, Dwight Wilson. He let the secret slip once and then as a General, a potential presidential candidate, as President and a former President, he decided to never admit he'd committed that little wrong."

But when it comes to records, Frisz laments there isn't more material available about athletes who played in the Negro leagues.

"Long ago I regretted so many black players of outstanding ability were prevented from playing anywhere but the Negro leagues. There



shouldn't be any doubt about the abilities of such men as Cool Papa Bell, Josh Gibson and several others. They could have played with any team in the majors. Gradually these greats are being recognized. Some day the Hall of Fame may get around to looking at Oscar Charleston, for instance. He was from Indianapolis and a terrific hitter.

"I believe it was very unfair of baseball," Frisz says. "Baseball ignored the blacks and their natural ability at athletics and turned them away."

Before 1901 several Negroes played baseball in the existing major leagues. The first black player, according to Frisz, was Moses Fleetwood Walker who was a catcher for Toledo in the American Association in 1884. Weldy Walker, his brother, played at the same time as an outfielder.

"Branch Rickey's claim to have broken the color line with

Paul C. Frisz can pull many historic items out of his baseball files and cases, including a baseball autographed (left) by the great Babe Ruth.

Jackie Robinson in 1947," Frisz says. "deserves an asterisk as a modern record. Fleet Walker was actually the first black player in the major leagues."

FRISZ SAYS a committee of the society of American Baseball Researchers is now researching information on Negro players who never got a chance in the major leagues, and will turn their findings over to the Hall of Fame.

Paul Frisz is vice-president of the Society of American Baseball Researchers and therefore in frequent contact with the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum at Cooperstown, N.Y., an institution he believes is far from everything it should be.

"Their selection of players for the Hall of Fame is pure horse and buggy. There are so many great players who deserve to be there who have never made it. Have you ever tried to get to Cooperstown just to visit the place? It's in the middle of nowhere, a hell of a place for the public to get to. It's nearly as tough

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for the public to reach as it is for the players," Frisz says with a laugh.

Few writers have an actual hand in Hall of Fame selections, he says. "I'd like to see the selection process altered some way to balance the influence of the Eastern writers and make more of the great players eligible for induction sooner.

"MORDECAI (Three Finger) Brown was mad as hell because he didn't make the Hall before he died. He was finally selected in 1949, about a year after he died. Look how long it took Ed Roush to make it, along with Sam Thompson and Sam Rice (all Hoosiers). And there are a lot of great players like Amos Rusie, Fred Lindstrom, Heinie Groh, Joe Jackson, Fred Fitzsimmons, Art Nehf, Chuck Klein and a lot of others who haven't made it yet.

"Personalities should not enter into nominations or selections, but they do," Frisz claims. "Hack Wilson, the Cub's great hitter, will probably never make it because he was such a carouser, yet Babe Ruth made it right away and his personal life was a shambles.

"It's hard to measure greatness. Dizzy Dean never won 200 games but he's in the Hall. Yet, just to pick a few names, George (Hooks) Dauss who won 222 games, Art Nehf who won 183, Amos Rusie, who won 245 games and Bob Mathews, who pitched the first game of organized baseball in the Union Association for the Fort Wayne Kekiongas, aren't in the Hall of Fame.

"There should be a formula and a more scientific approach to the selections. Then too, there are too many writers who don't vote and some of those who do just don't know baseball," Frisz challenges.

In 1963 Frisz dug into his collection of facts and compiled an All-Star team of 16 players, none in the Hall of Fame. Eight of those he listed later were inducted at Cooperstown. They were Jacob P. Beckley, Sam L. Thompson, Joseph J. Kelley, James F. (Pud) Galvin, Tim J. Keefe, Michael F. (Mickey) Welch and Charles H. (Red) Ruffing.

The others were Roger Connor, Joseph Sewell, Joseph (Arky) Vaughan, John A. McPhee, John T. Clements, one of the rare left handed catchers, George Van Haltren, Charles H. (Chuck) Klein and Amos (the Hoosier Thunderbolt) Rusie.

Mentioning that list can start Frisz's data bank mind reminiscing. Man by man he can give facts about their lives, their personalities



Frisz has Three Finger Brown's cane (right). The other he thinks was Cy Young's.

and their habits. And his evaluations take into account changes in the game and equipment.

"It would be hard to calculate how many home runs Sam Thompson might have hit in his 15 years if he'd been swinging at the same ball used during the Ruth era. But Sam was the home run champion until Ruth came along," says Frisz. Thompson, of Danville, Ind., hit 129 career home runs between 1885 and 1906 with Detroit and Philadelphia and compiled a .331 lifetime batting average.

OF THE changing equipment Frisz says, "With those baskets fielders use today for gloves, none of them should make as many errors as they do. The gloves men like Ty Cobb, Ed Roush and Tris Speaker used were like driving gloves compared to the new ones. The older ball players caught the ball, they didn't flag it down with a basket," Frisz says with a nod.

"There are times," Frisz admits with a laugh, "I get so carried away in my research about a player that I decide to get up and call him on the telephone. Then I wake up to the fact he's been dead a long time. So far I've always caught myself before I've picked up the telephone."

Frisz was one of eight children born to the J. W. Frisz family. The elder Frisz operated a Terre Haute grocery and was one of the state's pioneer conservationists. J. W. Frisz and two other men started the Shades park in 1909 as a 51-acre summer resort. Within a short time Frisz bought his partners out and began increasing the area of the resort. By 1948, when the Shades was sold to the state, it included 2,112 acres.

Paul worked in his father's grocery and at the Shades hotel when he was not going to school. In 1919 his mother, Elizabeth, died and he was sent to school at Dayton, O.

He played football and baseball but confesses he wasn't much good at either sport. "But I loved the game of baseball," he states.

He began collecting baseball related items in 1922 when his roommate at Dayton gave him a copy of the Sporting News and the Baseball Guide. He could never seem to quench his thirst for information about the players, past or present.

When he left the University of Dayton in 1929 he went to work for a publishing company as a news agency supervisor. He worked the Atlantic states and then set sales records at Springfield, O., Toledo and Indianapolis before he quit to join a piston ring company. In 1940 he quit selling on the road and returned to Terre Haute and became a life insurance agent.

In 1948 Frisz opened the Central Hotel at 714 Ohio Street in Terre Haute.

WHILE HE operated the hotel, he kept his baseball collection there and the Central Hotel was always the capital of the Hot Stove League, the name given long ago to the fans and players who spend the winter months sitting around the fire reminiscing and telling tales.

"Boy did we have some great arguments there," Frisz recalls, "and the Hot Stove League was always in season."

Frisz retired from the hotel in 1968 and the building has been demolished. Now his collection is in his home.

In 1954 the Philadelphia Phillies announced they were going to fold their Terre Haute farm club. Terre Haute Mayor Vern McMillen and others in the community finally convinced the Detroit Tigers to pick up the franchise.

Not long after Detroit took over, McMillen urged Frisz to become the business manager of the ball club.

"I'd never been a business manager before but I decided I'd give it a try," Frisz recalls. "In 1955 we had more than \$10,000 invested

and the team lost money and everybody wanted out. So for the 1956 season I took it all over. I was owner, general manager and business manager. An impressive list of titles but it didn't save the ball club. We were drawing about 850 people for each game and 1,250 was the break even point.

"I had to fold the club on July 4, 1956. I got no help from Detroit. I paid the bills, washed everything out and lost \$600, but I don't think there's a soul who can say the club owes them," Frisz says.

The baseball team members stayed in Frisz's hotel. He was unofficial father to the team, made sure the players kept training rules and he always had time to sit down and help individuals work out their personal problems.

"I made quite a few loans too," he says. "And the boys always paid me. I still get Christmas Cards from a couple of dozen of them."

But always the collecting continued.

Frisz has some of the very first action photographs ever taken at a baseball game. He has Three Finger Brown's inlaid wooden cane and another cane which he believes once belonged to the pitching great Cy Young. Frisz possesses a photograph which shows Young holding an unusual cane which appears identical to the one Frisz now owns.

"Young lived at Peoli, Ohio, and I bought this cane at a small town near there. I'm sure it's his but I've never been able to prove it," Frisz says.

From a glass case he can produce a baseball which bears Babe Ruth's autograph. He has the silver 1901 Three I League championship cup which Three Finger Brown helped Terre Haute win. He has countless autographed books and photographs but he says he's never been too intent upon collecting autographs. He has hundreds of the baseball cards, which sporting goods firms and tobacco companies once gave away with their products. Each bears a picture of a baseball star.

"I've never gone into the baseball cards too strong," Frisz says, "but if I can get them incidental to something else I want, I do so." Pointing to one early set of cards he adds, "I've been offered \$1,500 for this set but I never sell anything." **UNLESS I HAVE A DUPLICATE.**

"I'VE GOT bird dogs looking around for me every place. Not long ago a police buddy of mine told me they were throwing away some old pictures down at city hall and he

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Frisz

Continued from Page 17

asked me to come take a look. I went down there and found two pictures in the trash of the old Three I League ball park here. I can't say they are real valuable but the stadium is gone now and there aren't too many pictures of it around."

He possesses team photographs of every pennant winning team in the major leagues since 1871 with

full identification. He also has nearly every World Series and All-Star program.

"There's probably a lot of money involved in this collection. I can't say exactly how much but I haven't done it for the money. To me it's great fun to retrace a man's career and his life and learn things about him few people ever knew. And I get a kick when I find an error and I'm able to get it corrected too," Frisz admits.

Now that he is retired he devotes nearly all of his time to research and answering more than 700 letters he receives each year

from baseball fans. He has a few pieces of rental property at Terre Haute, but managing those affairs doesn't take much of his time.

Paul's wife Janet is understanding about her husband's addiction to baseball. At meal times, if he's busy, Janet slips a plate of food or a sandwich onto his desk and lets him work.

"Janet and I had an understanding a long time ago. When I'm monkeying around with my baseball she doesn't bother me. The days are mine and the evenings are hers. Each of us has stuck to the bargain."

IF HE COULD trade his extensive baseball collection for anything he wanted, or could become anything he chose, what would he do?

He thought a few moments and said: "If I could make such a trade I would trade all of this to have been a great player. But I just wasn't good enough. My next choice would have been to run a ball club. I love the game and its players and I would have enjoyed being able to do something for each.

"But my first wish will always be to have played the game."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



S. L. Thompson



Gil Hodges



Eugene Hargrave



Amos Rusie

ALL-HOOSIER HOT STOVE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

ALL PLAYERS BORN IN INDIANA

IN SELECTING members for the All-Hoosier, Hot Stove League baseball team, Frisz picked from more than 250 players with Hoosier background in the record books. Those players chosen, however, were all born in Indiana. Players who lived most of their lives in the state, but were born elsewhere, did not make Frisz's list.

Don Larsen, a Michigan City native and pitcher of a perfect game in the 1956 World Series, is omitted. Frisz reasons Larsen's overall record of 81 wins and 91 losses in 14 seasons doesn't rank him with those Hoosiers who compiled better records. "But," Frisz says, "if a reader wants Larsen on his squad, put him on. This is just for fun.

"These are some of the best baseball players who ever played the game," Frisz says. "The outfield strength is tremendous. Thompson, Roush and Rice are each Hall of Famers. You'd have to bench one of them to get Max Carey into the lineup and he's another Hall of Famer. Then you'd still have Chuck Klein sitting on the bench and he was a great power hitter. Cy Williams was also a good power hitter. Boy, would those guys make sparks fly as they tried to outdo each other to be a starter. A manager would go nuts trying to figure out who would start.

"The infield is strong defensively and there's good hitting, if not a lot of power. How would you like to have an infield of Hodges, Billie Herman, Donie Bush or Thevenow and either Everett or May? They would be rugged.

"For catcher, we don't have the great big rugged guy who hits a lot of home runs but Bubbles (Eugene) Hargrave hit a .310 lifetime average and he hit .353 for Cincinnati in 1926 to lead the league. And his brother Pinky (William) was darned near as good.

"We've only got Artie Nehf going for us as a left hander. We wouldn't have to work him to death though. We've got some real winners pitching. And it would be hard to estimate how many they would win if they were playing today, backed up with the great fielding and hitting we'd get from any variation of our lineup.

"I don't want to pick nine or 10 players and say these are the greatest. Let the fans look at these men and their records and compare them with other greats of the game. They'll see, like I have, that Indiana has contributed greatness to the game," Frisz says.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

OUTFIELD			
Years	Games	Ave.	Home Town
Sam Thompson	15	1.407	.331 Danville
Edd J. Roush	18	1.967	.323 Oakland City
Sam Rice	20	2.404	.322 Morocco
Chuck Klein	17	1.753	.320 Indianapolis
Chick Stahl	10	1.304	.305 Fort Wayne
Pete Fox	13	1.461	.293 Evansville
Cy Williams	19	2.002	.292 Wadena
Max Carey	20	2.476	.285 Terre Haute
Harry Leibold	13	1.258	.266 Butler

INFIELD			
Years	Games	Ave.	Home Town
Gil Hodges, 1b	18	2.071	.273 Princeton
George Crowe, 1b	9	702	.271 Whiteland
Jake Stahl, 1b	9	981	.260 Elkhart
Billy Herman, 2b	15	1.822	.304 New Albany
Rollie Zeider, 2b	9	936	.240 Auburn
William Everett, 3b	7	698	.317 Fort Wayne
Merrill May, 3b	5	665	.275 Laconia
Owen Bush, ss	17	1.946	.250 Indianapolis
Deacon Scott, ss	13	1.654	.249 Bluffton
Tom Thevenow, ss	15	1.229	.247 Madison

CATCHERS			
Years	Games	Ave.	Home Town
Eugene Hargrave	12	845	.310 New Haven
Butch Henline	11	740	.291 Fort Wayne
William Hargrave	10	650	.278 New Haven
Grover Hartley	14	569	.268 Osgood
Bill Rariden	12	986	.237 Bedford
Lou Criger	16	1.012	.221 Elkhart

PITCHERS					
Years	Games	Won-Lost	Pct.	Home Town	
Amos Rusie	10	485	245-174	.585	Mooresville
Mordecai Brown	14	481	229-131	.636	Nyesville (T.H.)
George Dauss	15	541	222-182	.551	Indianapolis
Fred Fitzsimmons	19	513	217-146	.598	Mishawaka
Al Orth	15	603	202-189	.517	Danville
Babe Adams	19	492	194-140	.581	Tipton
Art Nehf	15	465	182-120	.603	Terre Haute
Jouett Meekin	10	339	153-133	.534	New Albany
Dizzy Trout	15	535	170-161	.514	Sandcut Farm (T.H.)
Carl Erskine	12	360	122-73	.610	Anderson
Doc Crandall	10	302	106-61	.635	Wadena
George Cuppy	10	314	162-98	.623	Logansport

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STARS INCLUDED

Complete Sets \$25.00

POSTAGE PAID

200 DIFFERENT CARDS
\$11.00

100 DIFFERENT CARDS
\$5.00

50 DIFFERENT CARDS
\$2.50

25 DIFFERENT CARDS
\$1.25

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